Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

Economic Statistics Released During the Week of June 14, 2004 to June 18, 2004

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Manufacturing Shipments ($ Millions)	April			In April, Canadian manufacturing shipments rose 0.5%, the fifth consecutive monthly increase. Despite concerns that the strong dollar and high petroleum prices would negatively affect the manufacturing sector, year-to-date shipments are up 3.1% over the same period in 2003. Much of the strength has come from the durable goods sector, with three consecutive months of increases. Alberta's manufacturing shipments were up for the ninth consecutive month in April, posting a gain of 1.3%. The largest increases were in machinery manufacturing (+7.9%), printing (+7.5%), and wood products (+4.4%).
Alberta	4,312	1.3%	13.5%	
Canada	48,471	0.5%	7.0%	
New Motor Vehicle Sales	April			In April, new motor vehicle sales in Canada rose 2.6%, the forth-consecutive monthly increase, allowing sales to reach their highest level in eight months. The increase was due to strong growth in the sale of passenger cars (+3.2%), as well as trucks, vans and buses (+2.0%). Following a 1.1% decline in March, Alberta's new motor vehicle sales rebounded in April, rising 1.1%. Among provinces, the strongest monthly gains were reported in Prince Edward Island (+22.7%), Manitoba (+9.4%), and Ontario (+4.7%).
Alberta	16,324	1.1%	4.3%	
Canada	137,719	2.6%	2.7%	
Consumer Price Index (1984=100)	May			In May, the United States annual consumer price index rose to 3.1%, up from 2.3% in April. The rise was largely due to soaring energy prices, with the energy sector reporting annual inflation of 15.0% in May, up from 5.6% in April. The transportation sector also contributed significantly to the increase, with annual inflation in May rising 3.5 percentage points, to 5.1%. U.S. 'core' inflation, which excludes energy and food products, actually fell 0.1 percentage points in May, to 1.7%.
United States	189.1	0.6%	3.1%	